

Appl. No.: 10/650,425
Amdt. dated 02/27/2006
Reply to Office action of December 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 were rejected. Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of these claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 1-10 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4-7, 16-18, and 22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,717,033. A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c) is filed concurrently herewith. In view of this submission, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now overcome.

CONCLUSION

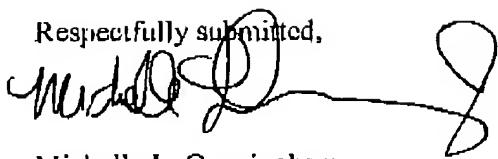
The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-10. In view of the above remarks and the submission of the terminal disclaimer, it is submitted that this application is now ready for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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Respectfully submitted,

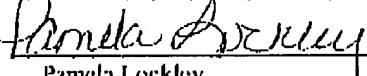


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.



Pamela Lockley

February 27, 2006

Date

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